

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 15332 010904Z

20

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9008

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS DECLINES TO ALLOW HIS WIFE TO BE DRAFTED
AS FIRST METRO MANILA MANAGER...AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT

1. ON OCTOBER 29 LOCAL GOVERNORS AND MAYORS MEETING WITH PRO-
MINENT MEMBERS OF MANILA BUSINESS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCED THAT MRS. MARCOS
BE APPOINTED FIRST METRO MANILA
MANAGER. THEIR ACTION WAS ENDORSED BY MEETING OF 1300 METRO
MANILA BARANGAY CAPTAINS OCTOBER 30 AND 31 WHO SUPPORTED METRO
MANILA UNIFICATION AND PETITIONED PRESIDENT TO APPOINT HIS
WIFE AS MANAGER SINCE SHE WAS ONLY ONE WHO COULD SOLVE PROBLEMS
OF THE CITY. "SPONTANEOUS" CAMPAIGN TO HAVE PRESIDENT
APPOINT MRS. MARCOS HAS RECEIVED COIOUS COVERAGE IN
GOVERNMENT GUIDED PRESS OVER LAST FEW DAYS.

2. ON OCTOBER 31, PRESIDENT MARCOS RECEIVED DELEGATION REPRE-
SENTING LOCAL MAYORS, BUSINESSMEN, BARANGAYS, ETC. AND TOLD
THEM FIRST LADY WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR METRO MANILA MANAGERSHIP.
PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS MATTER WITH BARANGAY REPRE-
SENTATIVES DURING THE NEXT WEEK AND EXPRESSED HOPE NAME
OF FIRST METRO MANILA MANAGER COULD BE ANNOUNCED BY
NOVEMBER 7. MARCOS SAID HE WAS THINKING OF CANDIDATE FROM
PRIVATE SECTOR ALTHOUGH HE HELD OPEN POSSIBILITY MRS.
MARCOS MIGHT STILL BE APPOINTED WHEN HE EMPHASIZED NEXT
WEEK'S CONSULTATIONS WOULD SHOW "WHAT OTHER OPTIONS

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PAGE 02 MANILA 15332 010904Z

WERE AVAILABLE." FYI EXPRESS' VALENCIA WROTE NOVEMBER 1

THAT MRS. MARCOS WOULD STILL BE NAMED. END FYI

3. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT ENTIRELY CERTAIN OF SIGNIFICANCE OF CAMPAIGN TO HAVE MRS. MARCOS APPOINTED METRO MANILA MANAGER AND PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON HER NON-AVAILABILITY. CONCEIVABLY SHE MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN OUT A BIT FURTHER THAN HER HUSBAND WANTED AND PRESIDENT MARCOS IS NOT DISPOSED TO PERMIT INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF HIS WIFE'S MEDDLING IN LOCAL URBAN AFFAIRS. IN ANY EVENT, DRAFT FIRST LADY EFFORT IS PART OF CONTINUING CAMPAIGN TO MAGNIFY MRS. MARCOS' ROLE IN THE NEW SOCIETY. AT THE SAME TIME DISCUSSION OF MRS. MARCOS AS CITY MANAGER MAKES CLEAR TO LOCAL OFFICIALS, IN A MANNER MORE TRADITIONALLY FILIPINO THAN PURGE ANNOUNCEMENT, THAT METRO MANILA REORGANIZATION WILL GO THROUGH AS PROVIDED FOR IN FEBRUARY REFERENDUM AND THAT THEIR DAYS ARE NUMBERED. EVEN IF MARCOS DECIDES ON MANAGER FROM PRIVATE SECTOR OR FROM GOVERNMENT, FIRST LADY WOULD ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE AS "HONORARY MANAGER" OR AS PATRONESS OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF METROPOLITAN MANILA WHICH THE CITY-MANAGER-COMMISSION FORM OF GOVERNMENT IS SUPPOSED TO MAKE A REALITY. END COMMENT.
SULLIVAN

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